

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (previously presented) A frame adapted for use with an external bone fixation device, said frame to at least partially encircle a bone, said frame comprising:

- (a) a radiolucent body material; and
- (b) a beryllium stiffening member embedded in said radiolucent body material.

- 2. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame is annular.
- 3. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame is arcuate.
- 4. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame is both lightweight and rigid.
- 5. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame is chemically inert with respect to the human body.
- 6. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame is chemically inert with respect to household substances.
- 7. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said radiolucent body material comprises a polycarbonate compound.
- 8. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame is autoclavable.
- 9. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame is adapted for attachment of a variety of wire- and pin-securing devices.
- 10. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said frame further comprises a second beryllium stiffening member embedded in said radiolucent body material.